

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An apparatus for compressing a stent having at least one protrusion, comprising:
 - a mandrel insertable into a lumen of the stent for holding the stent;
 - a protrusion compressor coupled to said mandrel, said mandrel rotatable relative to said protrusion compressor, said protrusion compressor having a tab extending therefrom towards said mandrel, said tab pressing the at least one protrusion of the stent inwardly toward the lumen of the stent when said mandrel is rotated relative to said protrusion compressor.
2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said mandrel extends through said protrusion compressor coaxially.
3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising a knob disposed on an end of said mandrel to aid in turning said mandrel and for retaining said protrusion compressor on said mandrel.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said mandrel has a stent fixation zone with an outer diameter greater than approximating the interior diameter of at least a portion of the lumen of the stent prior to installation of the stent on the mandrel and frictionally engaging the stent when the stent is placed on the mandrel over the stent retention zone to hold the stent on the mandrel and provide resistance to turning of the stent relative to the mandrel when the mandrel is rotated.
5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said mandrel has a tapered end leading to said stent retention zone, said tapered end aiding in inserting the mandrel into the lumen of the stent and sliding the stent on to the stent retention zone.
6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said protrusion compressor is captured between said knob and said stent retention zone.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said protrusion compressor has a grip portion with a hub and a collar, said collar coaxially received on said hub and having said tab extending therefrom at a distal end thereof, said collar restrained from rotating relative to said grip portion by a pin extending there through and into an elongated slot in said hub, said slot and pin constraining the collar to telescopic movement on said hub along a length of travel limited by said slot and defining a retracted position and a deployed position for said tab.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said collar has a flange extending outwardly therefrom for a user to grip said collar to aid in deployment and retraction of said tab.

9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said grip portion has a hollow post extending from said hub, said post having a relief slot on a distal end thereof, said relief slot positioned on said post to align with said tab when said tab is in the deployed position, said tab capturing the at least one protrusion of the stent between said tab and said relief slot when said apparatus compresses the at least one protrusion.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, further including a ball and detent interface disposed between said grip portion and said knob collar, said ball and detent interface controlling the relative rotation between said grip portion and said knob collar.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the at least one protrusion of the stent is at least one enlarged coil disposed at an end of the stent, said apparatus pressing the enlarged coil inwardly by pushing said collar portion forward to the deployed position to capture said enlarged coil between said tab and said relief slot and turning the knob and the mandrel relative to said protrusion compressor.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, further including a sleeve extending from a said collar distal to said flange, said tab extending from said sleeve.

13. (Original) An apparatus for compressing a coiled stent having at least one external protuberance, comprising:

means for holding the stent;